

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. 87-101

AMENDING NPDES PERMITS FOR THE PACIFIC GAS  
AND ELECTRIC COMPANY POWER PLANTS CITED HEREIN

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, (hereinafter called the Board) finds that:

1. The Dischargers listed below have been previously issued permits by this Board under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) in the Orders indicated:

<u>Discharger</u>	<u>NPDES Number</u>	<u>Order Number</u>	<u>Date Issued</u>
Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Hunters Point Power Plant, San Francisco	CA0005649	83-43	10-19-83
Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Potrero Power Plant, San Francisco	CA0005657	83-51	11-16-83
Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Pittsburg Power Plant, Pittsburg	CA0004880	83-22	6-23-83

2. The Board adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan) on December 17, 1986, and the State Water Resources Control Board approved it on May 21, 1987. The Basin Plan contains a revised bioassay method for determining compliance with the effluent toxicity requirement.
3. The permits for the Dischargers listed in Finding 1 contain an effluent toxicity requirement on the permitted discharge of waste.
4. On December 17, 1986, the Board concurred with the Executive Officer's proposal to include revised Standard Provisions and Reporting requirements and Definitions dated December 1986, and a revised Part A of the Self-Monitoring Program dated December 1986 in subsequent discharge orders brought before the Board for adoption.
5. The Basin Plan allows for the Board to modify the bioassay requirements and the specified test species on a case-by-case basis for discharges of once-through cooling water or excessively saline wastes.

6. On June 30, 1987, the Dischargers requested a modification of the flow-through and the specific test species requirements for the power plants cited in Finding 1 because they discharge once-through cooling waters and excessively saline wastes.
7. The permits for each of the Dischargers listed in Finding 1, includes Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements and Definitions dated April 1977 and Part A of the Self-Monitoring Program dated January 1978.
8. The issuance of waste discharge requirements for these discharges is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21110) of Division 13 of the Public Resources Code (CEQA) pursuant to Section 13389 of the California Water Code.
9. The Board has notified the Dischargers and interested agencies and persons of its intent to amend waste discharge requirements for the discharges and has provided them with an opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
10. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

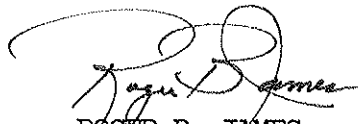
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the NPDES permits as contained in the Orders cited in Finding 1 of this Order are amended as follows:

- A. All references to Standard Provisions, Reporting Requirements and Definitions dated April 1977 and Part A of the Self-Monitoring Program dated January 1978 shall be deleted.
- B. The following provisions shall be included:
  1. This Order includes all items of the attached "Standard Provisions, Reporting Requirements and Definitions" dated December 17, 1986.
  2. The Discharger shall comply with the attached self-monitoring program, Part A, dated December 1986.
  3. Compliance with any effluent toxicity requirement shall be determined forthwith using two test species in parallel bioassays. For the Hunters Points and Potrero Power Plants, one species shall be three-spine stickleback, and the other shall be sanddabs. For the Pittsburg Power Plant, one species shall be stickleback and the other species shall be either rainbow trout, yellow fin goby, pacific staghorn sculpin, or sanddab, depending on the salinity of the bioassay sample.
  4. The Potrero Power Plant shall implement flow-through bioassay tests on each discharge forthwith, and demonstrate compliance with any effluent toxicity requirement using flow-through effluent bioassay tests by December 1, 1987. The compliance test sampling frequency

shall be once per week at intake and discharge for a three month period. If the bioassay results meet the toxicity limits specified in the permit, then the bioassay test shall revert to monthly flow-through bioassay sampling of the discharge. In addition to the test frequency specified above, flow-through bioassays shall be performed each time internal process wastes are scheduled for discharge with once-through cooling water.

5. The Hunters Point Power Plant shall demonstrate compliance with any effluent toxicity requirement on a monthly basis using static renewal bioassay tests by October 1, 1987.
6. The Pittsburg Power Plant shall continue to demonstrate compliance with any effluent using static bioassay tests on a monthly basis. In addition to the test frequency specified above, static bioassays shall be performed each time internal process wastes are scheduled for discharge with once-through cooling water.
7. This Order shall serve as an amended National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit pursuant to Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, or amendments thereto, and shall take effect at the end of ten days from the date of hearing provided the Regional Administrator, EPA, has no objections.

I, Roger B. James, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on August 19, 1987.

  
ROGER B. JAMES  
Executive Officer

Attachments:

Standard Provisions, Reporting  
Requirements and Definitions dated December 17, 1986  
Self-Monitoring Program, Part A dated December 1986